

## **Central Bureau Status and Perspective**

*Ruth Neilan*

**Director IGS Central Bureau  
NASA/Jet Propulsion Laboratory  
California Institute of Technology**

The Central Bureau continues to promote the IGS organization, data and data products as setting the world standard for GPS/GNSS geodetic applications as outlined in the IGS Strategic Plan. The Central Bureau was responsible for the organization of the strategic planning process, preparation of all documents, and the editing and publication of the plan. This was a major activity and the Board's consensus on the plan is a significant milestone in the evolution of the IGS. The Central Bureau is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Service. With 200 organizations in over 80 countries and a ground network of ~350 stations, this requires daily interfaces on many different levels globally. The separate summary of the IGS Network Coordinator is included in this annual report and demonstrates the vital technical tasks of the Central Bureau. The CB is also responsible to arrange and organize all Board activities and is involved in the supporting the planning and logistics of all IGS workshops and meetings.

In 2001-2002, the CB focused effort on outreach to other nations to garner participation in the IGS for a mutual benefit. Continued discussions with principals of China's 'Crustal Motion Observation Network of China' (CMONOC) at the China Seismological Bureau (CSB) demonstrate their deep interest in becoming more involved with the IGS. Similarly in Africa, the CB has been active in 2000 and 2001, to further the concept of a continental reference system for Africa – 'AFREF', taking part in meetings and discussions in Capetown. The initiative is being embraced by principal people within Africa, a key requirement for the long-term viability of a reference frame realization.

The CB began working with the United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs (UN/OOSA) to assist in the planning of the regional series of UN/GNSS workshops, with the objective to obtain broader international participation in these meetings. In particular, a key workshop took place in Lusaka, Zambia in July 2002 where many people from throughout Africa were present. One of the sessions of the workshop was devoted to unifying the African continental reference frame (AFREF) and was very well attended. The IGS exhibit was displayed and nearly all handout materials evaporated due to keen interest. One of the main problems facing Africans is the ability to interface with the international community and this was seen as an opportunity for them to make connections that help to build up their base of sustainable technology.

This year the IGS published workshop proceedings in conjunction with outside publishing companies as a variant on CB publications: GPS Solutions published the proceedings from the 2000 Analysis Center Workshop (some copies are available from the CB); and Physics and Chemistry of the Earth published the IGS Network Workshop proceedings joint with 'Towards Operational Meteorology', the European COST 716

Action "Exploitation of Ground-Based GPS for Climate and Numerical Weather Prediction Applications". These are excellent proceedings, however, copyright issues preclude their posting to the IGS website which limits the availability of information, especially to the wider global community.

The CB continues to improve efficiencies with very limited resources and staff and looks forward to working with the GB to accomplish one of the objectives of the strategic plan, *'to strengthen and stabilize the Central Bureau'*.